

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.

Listing of Claims:

1-23. *(Canceled)*

24. *(Currently Amended)* A preform assembly that includes:

a preform; and

an attachment object, said attachment object having a circumferentially

continuous or circumferentially split ring in abutting external engagement with a portion of said

preform in such a way that interference between said ring and said portion of said preform

prevents dislodgement or removal of said attachment object, wherein said preform assembly is

adapted to be received in a blow mold and blow molded into a container.

25. *(Original)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 24 wherein said ring is in surface press fit engagement with an external surface of said preform.

26. *(Original)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 24 wherein said ring is received over one or more attachment features on an external surface of said preform.

27. *(Currently Amended)* A finish on a hollow plastic preform ~~or container~~, which includes:

a radially outwardly projecting circumferential flange,

an external protrusion spaced from said flange, and

an attachment object that includes an annular ring captured between said protrusion and said flange, wherein said hollow plastic preform, having said attachment object attached thereto, is adapted to be received in a blow mold and blow molded into a container.

28. *(Currently Amended)* The finish set forth in claim 27 wherein said attachment object is selected from the group consisting of a handle, a label and a ~~shroud~~ jacket surrounding a body portion of the preform.

29. *(Original)* The finish set forth in claim 27 wherein said protrusion is selected from the group consisting of a retention bead and an array of retention gussets.

30. *(Original)* The finish set forth in claim 27 wherein said annular ring is circumferentially split or circumferentially continuous.

31-32. *(Canceled)*

33. *(New)* The preform assembly set forth in claim 24 wherein said attachment object is selected from the group consisting of a handle, a label and a jacket surrounding a body portion of the preform.